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Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824

January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

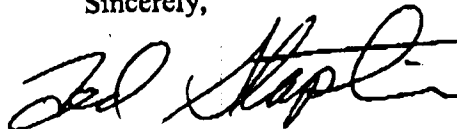
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft has finally reached a settlement with the Department of Justice in regards to the antitrust suit, and I am writing this letter to voice my support for that settlement. The litigation between the two sides lasted for over three years, cost both sides millions of dollars, and assisted in knocking our economy down into a recession.

Although Microsoft did not get off all that easy in the settlement, I am in favor of most of the terms, and feel that the economy stands to greatly benefit from this agreement. Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products. I feel that this goes too far, and forces Microsoft to turn over their intellectual property. However, I am in favor of the terms of the settlement that forbid any retaliation from Microsoft against other computer companies that either promote or produce software that competes with Microsoft's. This will encourage competition and help improve the IT industry.

I am in full support of the settlement that was reached. It can bring an end to this tiresome suit, and that cannot come soon enough.

Sincerely,



Ted Staplin

cc: Representative Marty Meehan